IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A flexible fluid containment vessel for the transportation and/or containment of cargo comprising a fluid or fluidisable material, said vessel comprising:

an elongated flexible tubular structure comprised of fabric having a first side and a second side;

said tubular structure having a front end and a rear end;

means for sealing said front end and said rear end;

means for filling and emptying said vessel of cargo; and

means for rendering said tubular structure impervious ~~and~~ buoyant comprising forming said fabric ~~out of yarns or fibers~~ having a thermoplastic coating that renders the fabric both impervious ~~and~~ buoyant ~~wherein said first side is formed predominantly out of yarns or fibers having a first thermoplastic coating and said second side is formed predominantly out of yarns or fibers having a second thermoplastic coating which is different from the first thermoplastic coating and causing the thermoplastic coatings to fill voids between the yarns or fibers to render the coated fabric impervious~~.

2. (Currently Amended) The vessel in accordance with claim 1 wherein said fabric is woven and has a ~~said~~ first and second side ~~are~~ formed by stitching points.

3. (Currently Amended) The vessel in accordance with claim 1 wherein said fabric is formed out of yarns having a thermoplastic coating which is subject to heat, pressure or both to cause it to flow and fill the voids.

4. (Currently Amended) The vessel in accordance with claim 1 wherein a ~~said~~ first thermoplastic coating is on a first side of the fabric and ~~said~~ a second thermoplastic coating is on a second side of the fabric with said first thermoplastic coating being different from said second thermoplastic coating with said coatings being ~~are~~ taken from the group consisting essentially of urethane, polyester, polyamide, polyvinyl chloride, polyolefin or other suitable thermoplastic material.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~A flexible fluid containment~~ vessel in accordance with claim 1 ~~for the transportation and/or containment of cargo comprising a fluid or fluidisable material, said vessel comprising:~~

~~an elongated flexible tubular structure comprised of fabric;~~

~~said tubular structure having a front end and a rear end;~~

~~means for sealing said front end and said rear end;~~

~~means for filling and emptying said vessel of cargo; and~~

wherein means for rendering said tubular structure impervious and buoyant ~~comprising~~ comprises coating one or both sides said fabric with a coating having microspheres therein in a sufficient amount that the overall density of the coated fabric is less than approximately 1.0 g/cm^3.

6. (Original) The vessel in accordance with claim 5 wherein said coating is taken from the group consisting essentially of: polyvinyl chloride, polyurethanes, synthetic and natural rubbers, polyureas, polyolefins, silicone polymers, acrylic polymers or foam derivatives thereof.

7. (Original) The vessel in accordance with claim 5 wherein said coating is a thermoplastic or thermoset material.

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~A flexible fluid containment~~ vessel in accordance with claim 1 ~~for the transportation and/or containment of cargo comprising a fluid or fluidisable material, said vessel comprising:~~

~~an elongated flexible tubular structure comprised of fabric;~~

~~said tubular structure having a front end and a rear end;~~

~~means for sealing said front end and said rear end;~~

~~means for filling and emptying said vessel of cargo; and~~

wherein said means for rendering said tubular structure impervious and buoyant ~~comprising~~ comprises coating one or both sides said fabric with a coating having a gas or entrained air in the coating such that the gas or air is trapped within the coating in sufficient amount that the overall density of the coated fabric is less than approximately 1.0 g/cm^3.

9. (Original) The vessel in accordance with claim 8 wherein the coating is applied to the fabric by spraying or in the form of a foam.

10. (Original) The vessel in accordance with claim 8 wherein said coating is taken from the group consisting essentially of: polyvinyl chloride, polyurethanes, synthetic and natural rubbers, polyureas, polyolefins, silicone polymers, acrylic polymers or foam derivatives thereof.

11. (Original) The vessel in accordance with claim 10 wherein said coating is a thermoplastic or thermoset material.

12. (Currently Amended) The ~~A flexible fluid containment~~ vessel in accordance with claim 1 ~~for the transportation and/or containment of cargo comprising a fluid or fluidisable material, said vessel comprising:~~

~~an elongated flexible tubular structure comprised of~~ wherein the fabric ~~which~~ includes fibers or yarns made from material consisting essentially of ultra high molecular weight polyethylene, or polyolefins; and

~~said tubular structure having a front end and rear end;~~

~~means for sealing said front end and said rear end;~~

~~means for filling and emptying said vessel of cargo; and~~

~~a~~ the means for rendering said tubular structure impervious ~~by~~ and buoyant comprises coating said fabric with a polyurethane material.

13. (Original) The vessel in accordance with claim 12 wherein said coating is a thermoset polyurethane coating.